



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service
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Washington Crop Weather

Released: July 21, 2003, 1:00 p.m.
Week Ending: July 20, 2003
CWP WA-CW2903

Hot, Dry Conditions Put Irrigation Water in High Demand Early Yields for Winter Wheat Above Average; Spring Cereals Below Average

Field Crops

Continued hot, dry conditions had farmers struggling to keep enough water on crops throughout the state. Around the Palouse, early reports have winter wheat yields near average or above, but spring wheat and barley were expected to be down significantly, with light test weights. Second cutting alfalfa hay and first cutting timothy were being harvested with above average yields. Christmas tree growers continued top working Noble fir and began shearing Grand fir. Some growers also reported heat scorch to new growth on trees. Potato vine killing began in Skagit County.

Livestock

Range and pastures across most of Washington continued to deteriorate due to the hot, dry weather. Pastures located higher in the mountains remained in good condition. Range and pasture conditions were 4% very poor, 17% poor, 63% fair, and 16% good.

Fruits and Vegetables

Higher than average temperatures pushed production and required additional irrigation for fruits and vegetables in Kitsap County. Also in the west, raspberries, blueberries, loganberries, and peas were being harvested. In Skagit County, spinach seed, orchard grass, and corn showed signs of stress. In the Yakima Valley, cherry harvest was winding down while harvest of peaches, apricots, and nectarines were underway. Apples and pears have struggled with the hot weather, but sunburn has been minimal. In Grant County, sweet corn, cherries, crucifer seed, seed peas, mint, grass seed, and peppermint were being harvested.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.9
Last Week	6.9

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	36	35	29	0
Subsoil	12	30	58	0
Irrigation Water	1	11	88	0
Hay & Roughage	2	3	94	1

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2002	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Harvested	3	0	3	1
Winter Wheat Harvested	10	3	7	7
Barley Harvested	2	0	2	2
Potatoes Harvested	11	7	18	8
Proc. Green Peas Harvested	99	70	99	88
Dry Peas Harvested	9	1	4	3
Alfalfa Hay 2nd Cutting	94	78	77	85
Alfalfa Hay 3rd Cutting	2	0	9	5

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	3	9	29	44	15
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	18	75	7
Spring Wheat Dryland	7	20	54	18	1
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	0	14	86	0
Barley Dryland	5	19	45	30	1
Barley Irrigated	0	0	10	90	0
Potatoes	0	0	8	55	37
Corn	0	0	4	95	1
Dry Edible Beans	0	1	4	50	45

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

COUNTY COMMENTS

Western

Clark: Extreme heat and dry weather conditions were impacting all crops in the area, especially fruits and berries. Raspberry harvest was well underway, and the heat and dry weather conditions were having a negative impact and causing losses to the crops.

Grays Harbor: The rural landscape was being transformed into a tapestry of brown and yellow as the drought continued. Native maples and Oregon ash trees were beginning to sport yellow foliage due to the lack of soil moisture. Native grasses and forage fields where irrigation was not available, have completely dried up, creating vistas of gold and yellow throughout much of the county. The dry conditions, which were so highly visible, normally do not occur until September and early October. Ag producers were working overtime to keep sweet corn fields irrigated. Christmas tree growers began shearing Grand firs. Direct market farms reported excellent sales for early vegetables, blueberries and raspberries. Many areas throughout the county were "kinder dry". The potential for wild fires was enormously high.

Grays Harbor/Lewis: Cool mornings with dew were about the only drought relief that has been experienced. With only a quarter of an inch of rain in the past month or so, most crops have done remarkably well. However, the water gauge cannot be too far from empty. How do you spell relief??? R-A-I-N.

Jefferson: Most of the haying was complete. Grasses were very dry.

tsap: Higher than average temperatures pushed production and

required additional irrigation. Raspberry production was in full swing with excellent yields and quality. Local farm and market stands have loganberries and raspberries.

Skagit: Potato vine killing began. Harvest continued on raspberries, blueberries, and peas. Cauliflower growers were breaking leaves. The drought continued, with no measurable precipitation for 36 days, and none in sight as of July 18. Crops especially stressed were spinach seed, orchard grass, and some fields of corn and potatoes.

Snohomish/North King: The weather was dry and hot all week. Non-irrigated pastures and fields were drying up. Fire danger was very high. Blueberries were ripening. Raspberries were nearly done.

Thurston: The lack of rain resulted in drought conditions throughout the county. The foliage of Oregon ash and vine maple have begun to express fall coloration due to the lack of soil moisture. Livestock producers continued to harvest a lighter than normal forage crop. The dry weather has been ideal for the blueberry harvest. Most of the fruit was harvested by machine at night for increased berry quality. Christmas tree growers continued top working Noble fir and began shearing Grand fir. Some growers continued to report "heat scorch" damage to new growth. Soil moisture was extremely low, resulting in large cracks in heavy clay soils. Crops requiring irrigation (turfgrass, vegetables, and small fruit) have kept ag producers extremely busy trying to keep up with plant water requirements. The rural landscape was "kinder dry" resulting in enormous potential for wildfires.

Central

Benton: Apricots and early peaches were being harvested. Wheat harvest also began. Hot, dry weather prevailed, and irrigators were having a hard time keeping up.

Grant: Sweet corn harvest was underway. Cherry harvest continued. Crucifer seed was being swathed. Seed pea harvest was well underway or nearly complete. Mint harvest continued. Grass seed harvest commenced. Peppermint harvest was 75 percent complete.

Kittitas: Continued hot, dry conditions had farmers struggling to keep enough water on crops. Timothy hay was slow to regrow following the first cutting. Sweet corn grew rapidly. There was some irrigation shortfall.

Kittitas (2nd Report): The second cutting of alfalfa was complete, as well as the first cutting of timothy. Yields were better than average. Range and pastures were turning dry due to continued hot weather. Irrigation water supplies should be adequate for the growing season.

Okanogan/Ferry: Temperatures were exceptionally high, into the 100 plus degrees. The second cutting of alfalfa hay was well underway. Higher mountain pasture conditions remained good.

Yakima: The cherry harvest was winding down in Yakima. Peach and nectarine harvest continued very well. Apples and pears have struggled with the very hot weather. Sunburn so far has been minimal.

Eastern

Adams: Harvest will be in full swing this week, as only 15 percent of the winter wheat harvest was complete. Yields have been reported as mostly good or above the 10 year average. Summer fallow moisture has been a concern with the lack of precipitation, but growers feel moisture will be there for seeding.

Asotin/Garfield: Hot, dry conditions continued. Harvest began in the lower half of the two counties. Very few yield reports thus far, but we have heard that winter wheat was about average to just below average. Crops in the upper elevations were being hurt by the hot, dry conditions. Pastures continued to deteriorate.

Douglas/Chelan: Temperatures were above normal. Hot, windy conditions have affected the wheat crop. Spring wheat and barley crops were expected to yield below normal. The peach crop was currently being harvested.

Lincoln: Winter wheat harvest will be starting in the southern end of the county and quickly progressing north as hot, dry and breezy conditions continue.

Walla Walla: Weather conditions were very hot and dry. Rangeland was in poor condition due to continued drought conditions. Harvest was in full swing. The winter wheat crop looked good. Most spring crops were seeing low yields. Fire risk was extremely high.

Whitman: Dry conditions continued. Winter wheat harvest got underway along the southwestern edge of the county, on limited acreage. Combines should be rolling in much of the western half of the county by the end of next week. Early reports have winter wheat yields near average or above, but spring barley and spring wheat were expected to be down significantly, with light test weights.

Whitman (2nd Report): No rain for most the county since June 1, 2003. Harvest began in LaCrosse on July 15, and Lamont on July 17. Spring wheat and barley crops were burning up, with the later seeding being hurt the most. Harvest should be in full swing for the western half of the county by August 1, which is quite normal. One producer, in the Lamont to Tyler area, reported that his pasture and hay were far less than last year at this time.

National weather website: <http://www.usda.gov/nass/pubs/pubs.htm>

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Weekly Weather Statistics

July 21, 2003

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
WEST															
Bellingham	47	88	65	4	109	24	39	18	0.13	-0.15	1	26.05	-8.28	76	145
Everett	53	84	67	5	120	29	50	29	0.00	-0.28	0	24.46	-10.23	71	142
Hoquiam	49	75	63	3	93	17	23	11	0.04	-0.24	2	60.45	-5.56	92	159
Kelso	50	88	68	5	128	30	58	30	0.00	-0.21	0	23.65	-21.10	53	104
Olympia	43	90	66	4	115	24	45	22	0.08	-0.06	1	36.87	-12.17	75	147
Sea-Tac	55	87	69	4	132	25	62	23	0.04	-0.10	1	31.27	-4.55	87	140
Shelton	43	88	66	2	117	12	47	12	0.05	-0.16	1	54.40	-8.96	86	144
Tacoma	46	90	67	4	123	19	53	18	0.00	-0.17	0	26.48	-12.21	68	128
Vancouver	52	90	70	6	142	37	72	37	0.00	-0.15	0	34.22	-5.60	86	136
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	50	96	72	4	154	25	84	25	0.00	-0.04	0	7.90	-0.56	93	80
Omak	46	101	75	8	174	49	104	48	0.00	-0.14	0	11.82	-1.92	86	61
Stampede Pass	40	77	59	4	66	24	14	7	0.02	-0.26	1	58.76	-19.83	75	147
Wenatchee	56	100	77	4	190	24	120	23	0.00	-0.02	0	8.86	1.07	114	73
Yakima AP	47	100	74	4	165	25	95	25	0.00	0.00	0	7.98	0.46	106	58
NORTHEAST															
Colville	49	104	75	9	176	59	106	57	0.00	-0.17	0	17.33	-2.49	87	73
Deer Park	43	99	70	1	145	8	75	8	0.00	-0.21	0	20.24	2.72	116	96
Spokane AP	49	98	73	5	165	31	95	31	0.00	-0.14	0	14.90	-0.65	96	100
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	52	100	76	1	183	6	113	7	0.00	-0.07	0	7.56	0.71	110	54
Moses Lake	52	100	75	-1	175	-2	105	-1	0.00	-0.07	0	7.87	1.02	115	72
Quincy	54	96	75	4	174	27	104	27	0.00	-0.03	0	6.13	-1.23	83	51
Ritzville	43	100	71	2	152	15	82	15	0.00	-0.07	0	11.14	0.37	103	82
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	53	104	77	-2	192	-4	122	-4	0.00	0.00	0	8.00	1.92	132	67
Pasco	50	104	76	1	181	6	111	6	0.00	0.00	0	7.08	0.06	101	71
Pullman	47	96	70	5	140	31	70	28	0.00	-0.14	0	9.71	-10.25	49	88
Whitman Miss.	49	102	73	3	163	15	93	16	0.00	-0.07	0	14.32	1.37	111	114
ID PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A' AP	50	99	74	5	168	31	98	30	0.00	-0.17	0	18.23	-6.11	75	100
Lewiston ID	58	105	80	6	210	38	140	37	0.00	-0.14	0	12.67	1.24	111	110

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2002

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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